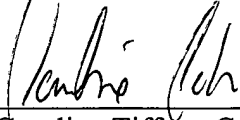


No additional fees are believed due in connection with this response. However, if a fee is deemed to be payable, please charge such fees due to deposit account No. 20-1507.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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Clean Version of Claims as Amended:

sub 1

1. (once amended) A floatation swimsuit comprising:

a form-fitting torso covering, said form-fitting torso covering including a retaining pocket, a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering;

a unitary floatation element for retention by said retaining pocket, said unitary floatation element including:

a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer, said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation toward a wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer; and

a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet.

2. The floatation swimsuit of Claim 1, wherein said retaining pocket includes a sheet

of fabric, said sheet of fabric being laminated to the outwardly disposed surface of said unitary floatation element to ensure that said fabric sheet closely matches the contours of said backsheet and enhanced buoyancy regions of said unitary floatation element.

4. The floatation swimsuit of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of raised portions include an upper torso portion and a lower torso portion.

Sub C 5. (once amended) A unitary floatation element for use in a floatation swimsuit, said floatation element comprising:

B2 a backsheet contained within a torso covering including a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering, said backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer, said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation toward a wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer;

a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet.

6. The floatation swimsuit of Claim 5, wherein said plurality of raised portions include an upper torso portion and a lower torso portion.

Sub De 7. (once amended) A floatation swimsuit comprising:

B2 a form-fitting torso covering including a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering, said form-fitting torso covering including a distributed layer of buoyant material distributed substantially throughout for providing general buoyancy to the wearer, said distributed layer of buoyant material having a thickness in a first particular range; and

D6
C12

B3
C12

a plurality of enhanced buoyancy regions integrally carried by said distributed layer of buoyant material in fixed positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said enhanced buoyancy regions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said distributed layer of buoyant material and extending outwardly therefrom.

L13

8. The floatation swimsuit of Claim 7, wherein said plurality of raised portions include an upper torso portion and a lower torso portion.

9. The floatation swimsuit of claim 7, further comprising a fastenable torso opening.

10. The floatation swimsuit of claim 7, further comprising a fastenable torso opening.

11. The floatation swimsuit of claim 9, wherein said fastenable torso opening includes a fastenable chest opening.

12. The floatation swimsuit of claim 9, where said fastenable torso opening includes a fastener selected from the group consisting of a zipper, a hook and loop fastener, a button, a snap, a tie, and a strap.

Sub 13

B4

13. (once amended) A method of manufacturing a floatation swimsuit comprising the steps of:

providing a form-fitting torso covering having an element retaining pocket, a right arm covering, a left arm covering, a left leg covering, and a right leg covering;

providing a unitary floatation element having a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range and a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body;

positioning said unitary floatation element at a desired location adjacent said form-fitting torso covering;

B4 Cont.
C3
pocket.

securing said unitary floatation element within said element retaining

14. A floatation swimsuit comprising:

a form-fitting torso covering, said form-fitting torso covering including a retaining pocket;

a unitary floatation element for retention by said retaining pocket, said unitary floatation element including:

a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer, said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer; and

a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet;

wherein plurality of raised portions include an upper torso portion and a lower torso portion and said retaining pocket includes a sheet of fabric, said sheet of fabric being laminated to the outwardly disposed surface of said unitary floatation element to ensure that said fabric sheet closely matches the contours of said backsheet and enhanced buoyancy regions of said unitary floatation element.

B3
D4

15. (new) A floatation swimsuit comprising:

a form-fitting torso covering, said form-fitting torso covering including a retaining pocket;

a unitary floatation element for retention by said retaining pocket, said unitary floatation element including:

a backsheet comprising a layer of buoyant material having a thickness within a first predetermined range for providing general buoyancy to a wearer,

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said backsheet including an inner surface for presentation toward a wearer and an outer surface for presentation away from a wearer; and

B3 Cont.
a plurality of raised portions integrally carried by said backsheet in fixed relative positions for providing enhanced buoyancy to strategically selected areas of the wearer's body, each of said raised portions comprising a buoyant material having a thickness substantially greater than that of said backsheet and each of said raised portions extending outwardly from said outer surface of said backsheet;

wherein said retaining pocket includes a sheet of fabric having an indicator dye which bleaches upon exposure to the elements to notify the wearer of degradation of the swimsuit components.
